





# ONTARIO CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY 3RS CODE OF PRACTICE

January 1993

The Ontario construction industry has adopted this Code of Practice relating to the 3Rs of waste management: **REDUCE**, **REUSE** and **RECYCLE**. This Code will give the construction industry a point of reference from which to coordinate its activities. The Code demonstrates the commitment to working toward sustainable development, recognizing the need to balance environmental and economic considerations. The Code outlines the commitment of the Ontario construction industry to responsible management of its waste stream and material resources. The Code is not intended to be a comprehensive document establishing a construction industry standard for the 3Rs of waste management.

The Ontario construction industry will promote strategies to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill. This commitment goes beyond simple compliance with the letter and spirit of the law: it involves a commitment to leadership by taking the initiative to employ advanced material management techniques.

Construction industry members are encouraged to consider implementing the following principles and initiatives to the extent practical, recognizing members' individual business and operating constraints:

## **REDUCE**

- \* promote the Ontario construction industry's commitment to reduce the waste stream;
- \* incorporate 3Rs waste management considerations into the preplanning of projects;
- \* investigate construction techniques, technologies and design which produce less waste;
- \* target factors which contribute to excessive waste generation;
- \* consider purchasing options that minimize packaging and product waste;
- \* purchase construction materials in dimensions and quantities to satisfy project requirements; and
- \* avoid damage of construction materials by proper on-site handling and storage.

## **REUSE**

- \* consider methods of reusing materials on-site where appropriate;
- \* separate materials on-site for reuse purposes where appropriate;
- \* strip reusable materials out of buildings during demolition and renovation if practical; and
- \* network locally to identify markets for reusable materials.

## **RECYCLE**

- \* investigate methods of recycling material resources;
- \* separate materials on-site for recycling purposes where practical;
- \* use recycled-content and recyclable construction materials;
- \* cooperate with private and government initiatives to divert recyclables from disposal;
- \* be knowledgeable of local recycling facilities and technologies; and
- \* network locally to identify markets for recyclable materials.

**THE 3RS CODE OF PRACTICE HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY:**

Canadian Standards Association  
Council of Ontario Construction Associations  
Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario  
Grand Valley Construction Association  
Greater Toronto Home Builders' Association  
Heavy Construction Association of Toronto  
Independent Contractors Group  
London & District Construction Association  
Mechanical Contractors Association of Ontario  
Metro Toronto Demolition Contractors Association  
Niagara Construction Association  
Ontario General Contractors Association  
Ontario Hot Mix Producers Association  
Ontario Home Builders' Association  
Ontario Industrial Roofing Contractors Association  
Ontario Painting Contractors Association  
Ontario Sewer & Watermain Contractors Association  
Ottawa Construction Association  
Provincial Building & Construction Trades of Ontario  
Sarnia Construction Association  
Sudbury Construction Association  
Toronto Construction Association  
Utility Contractors Association of Ontario

*with the assistance of the Ministry of the Environment Waste Reduction Office*



